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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 61ST MEDICAL BATTALION
APO 96312

AVLC-MB-GA-61MB-01

+
1 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned For Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1966, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

THRU: Commanding Officer
43d Medical Group
APO 96240

Commanding Officer
44th Medical Brigade
APO 96307

Commanding General
1st Logistical Command
APO 96307

Commander-in-Chief
United States Army, Pacific
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C., 20310

Section 1. Significant Organization Or Unit Activities.

1. General Status. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 61st Medical Battalion arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 June 1966. This organization was assigned to the 43d Medical Group, effective 8 June 1966, and became operational on 15 June 1966 with headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay, Khanh Hoa Province (Map, Joint Operations Graphic (Ground), 1:250,000, series 1501, edition December 1965, sheet NC 49-1, coordinates CP 068158; with the mission of providing medical support to USARV elements

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AVLC-MB-GA-61MB-OI

1 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned For Quarterly Period Ending
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in the 23d ARVN Division area of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)
II Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ) with certain responsibilities for support
throughout II CTZ.

See paragraph 4, mission.

2. Organization.

a. Annex A, organization chart as of 31 October 1966.

b. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment is assigned to 43d
Medical Group, with attachment to Cam Ranh Bay Sub-Area Command for admin-
istrative and logistical support. (LOI 4-66 (U), AVLC-MB-GA-OI, dated 16
September 1966).

c. Following units are assigned to this headquarters as of 31
October 1966 and arrived in-country on dates indicated:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| STL | WHITE SECTION <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C | BUFF SECTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| AN. | CEO. <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| DIST. | AVAIL. and/or SPECIAL |

7th Medical Detachment (MA); 31 August 1966
136th Medical Detachment (MA); 24 August 1965
161st Medical Detachment (OA); 28 May 1965
221st Medical Detachment (MB); 31 July 1966
241st Medical Detachment (MB); 31 July 1966
349th Medical Detachment (MB); 21 June 1966
418th Medical Company (Amb); 21 June 1966
440th Medical Detachment (RB); 16 September 1966
563d Medical Company (Clearing); 16 September 1966
568th Medical Company (Clearing); 27 December 1965
575th Medical Detachment (MB); 6 April 1965

d. Following units/teams are attached to this headquarters for
administrative and logistical support as of 31 October 1966:

Team, 4th Medical Detachment (VFI)
Team, 20th Preventive Medicine Unit (FLD)

3. Command. Through the preparatory stages of training and pro-
cessing for overseas movement this organization was commanded by Major
Carl J. O'Kelley, 02050316, Medical Service Corps; on 12 April 1966 command
was assumed by LTC Charles O. Onstead, 067600, Medical Corps, who has com-
manded this organization since its arrival in-country.

4. Mission. The mission of this organization in support of desig-
nated units, as defined by Letter of Instruction 4-66 (U), Headquarters,
43d Medical Group, dated 16 September 1966, is:

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- a. Provide area medical service to units without an assigned or organic medical support capability.
- b. Supervise professional medical service of subordinate units.
- c. Exercise custody of medical records and render reports on patients treated as required by current directives.
- d. Provide for the security of personnel, equipment, facilities and billets of all elements assigned or attached.
- e. Provide command, control and planning for all elements assigned or attached.
- f. Provide battalion-level supply and organizational maintenance to assigned or attached units in the II Corps Tactical Zone (S).
- g. Provide dispensary facilities and 240 operational beds to be located in Tuy Hoa, and Ban Me Thout on order.
- h. Be prepared to augment 8th Field Hospital, Nha Trang, with 240 operational beds.
- i. Provide land evacuation support as required.
- j. Develop plans for ground, sea or air movements (to permit timely medical reaction for support of emergency/contingency plans) for the following units.
 - (1) Medical Company (Clearing) TOE 8-128
 - (2) One (1) Platoon, Medical Company (Clearing) TOE 8-128
 - (3) One (1) Surgical Team, TOE 8-500, (KA) to accompany either (1) or (2) above.

5. Personnel. Except as indicated in Section 2., this command has experienced no unusual problems in the personnel field.

6. Operations.

a. Major combat forces operations supported have been Operation John Paul Jones (U), Operation Robin (U), and Operation Seward (U)

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b. Area outpatient medical service is provided in Dalat, Cam Ranh Bay, Phan Rang, Nha Trang, and Tuy Hoa.

7. Training. This command experienced no unusual problems in the training field.

8. Intelligence. This command experienced no unusual problems in the intelligence field.

9. Logistics. Except as indicated in Section 2, this command experienced no unusual problems in the logistics field.

Section 2. Commander's Recommendations and Lessons Learned.

1. Personnel.

a. Item: 563d Medic 1 Company (Clearing) was not fully deployable upon Personnel Readiness Date.

b. Discussion: The 563d Medical Company (Clearing) deployed to the Republic of Vietnam seriously understrength; accumulative shortages approximated one (1) platoon.

c. Recommendation: That units not deploy until personnel fill is accomplished in CONUS.

2. Logistics.

a. Item: Red Circle TAT equipment does not in fact accompany troops from time of arrival at port of debarkation to final destination, nor is it immediately available upon arrival in country.

b. Discussion: Red Circle TAT for the 563d Medical Company (Clearing) has not been received by the company since arrival on 16 September 1966.

c. Recommendation: That unit advance parties have packing lists for Red Circle TAT available upon arrival in country enabling sponsors to plan for receipt, storage, transportation, and security; and that transportation of personnel and equipment to unit area be effected concurrently.

d. Item: Equipment Readiness Dates are not met and equipment issued is not ready for use upon receipt.

e. Discussion: The 440th Medical Detachment (RB) had an Equipment Readiness Date (ERD) of 3 August 1966; vehicles were issued on 14 August 1966 and were immediately prepared for overseas shipment on 16

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August 1966 although they were mechanically unready. Technical inspections conducted upon arrival in country revealed numerous shortcomings and deficiencies, none attributable to shipment damage, which had to be corrected before the vehicles could be placed in service. Eleven (11) major items had to be replaced: six (6) tires, two (2) starters, one (1) head gasket, one (1) clutch assembly, and one (1) gas pump. In addition vehicle OEM and OVM were missing.

f. Recommendation: That strict POM standards be adhered to by locating CNS unit and that unit shipment dates be adjusted when readiness of personnel or equipment indicates that such is necessary.

g. Item: Accurate information concerning arrival of unit equipment in country is not provided the gaining unit.

h. Discussion: In each instance where units of this command have received official notification of estimated time and place of arrival of equipment, such time and place have not in fact been adhered to. In attempts to locate ships bearing unit equipment and to effect discharge of the equipment at a port reasonably located near the gaining unit many hours of valuable time have been wasted and too much apparently unnecessary trans-shipment has had to be accomplished.

i. Recommendation: Docking and sailing times of vessels having unit equipment be adjusted to meet the needs of the gaining unit.

Charles O. Onstead

CHARLES O. ONSTEAD

LTC, MC

Commanding

Tel: CRB 370

Telephone # 2
Remarks

A-Organization Chart

DISTRIBUTION:

ACSFOR, DA - 1 (Direct)
CO, 43d Medical Group - 3
Cinc, USARPAC - 1
CG, USARV - 3
CG, 1st Logistical Command - 1
CG, US Army Support Command, Cam Ranh Bay (Info) - 1
Filos - 15

61st Med Bn

418th Med Co (Amb)

7th Med Det (MA)

440th Med Det (RB)

155th Med Det (MA)

553d Med Co (Clr)

161st Med Det (C.R.)

221st Med Det (I.B.)

241st Med Det (I.B.)

349th Med Det (I.B.)

516th Med Det (I.C.)

126th Med Det (I.B.)

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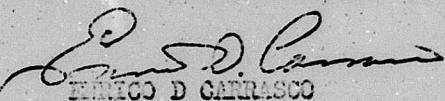
AVCM-2A-01 (1 Nov 66) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned For Quarterly Period
Ending 31 October 1966, Reports Control Symbol CSTR-65

HEADQUARTERS, 43d Medical Group, APO 96240, 14 November 1966

TO: Commanding Officer, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307

1. Concur with Paragraph 1 Section II. In-country fill of newly arrived understrength units places an undue strain on current assets.
2. Concur with Paragraph 2c, Section III Red Circle MAT equipment by regulation is to accompany troops and be available upon arrival at destination. It is possible for units to become separated from MAT equipment. To preclude loss of this equipment unit commanders should place guards or similar escort personnel with equipment at port of debarkation. These personnel should accompany equipment until arrival at final destination. Units who have, in the past, followed this practice, have precluded loss of equipment.
3. Concur with Paragraph 2f, Section II.
4. Non-concur with Paragraph 2i, Section III. It is understood that ports of debarkation and sailing times of vessels carrying unit TOE are subject to change up until the time these vessels begin to discharge cargo. The factors involved are too numerous to outline herein. This headquarters makes every attempt to provide subordinate units with the latest information available on cargo vessel sailings by constant liaison with transportation agencies.


ENRIQUE D. CARRASCO
COL, MC
Commanding

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AVCA-MR-PO (1 Nov 66)

2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1966, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307, 23 November 1966

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GC-0, APO
96307

This headquarters concurs with the comments and observations of the
Battalion Commander, except as indicated in paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement.
Concur with all comments contained in the 1st Indorsement.

Ray L. Miller
RAY L. MILLER
Colonel, MC
Commanding

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3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarter Period Ending 31 October 1966
(RCS CSFOR-65)

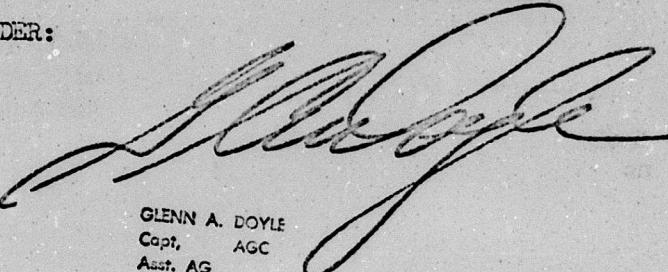
HEADQUARTERS, 1st Logistical Command, APO 96307

1 DEC 1966

TO: Deputy Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 61st Medical Battalion for the quarter ending 31 October 1966 is forwarded herewith.
2. The 61st Medical Battalion engaged in combat support operations for 92 days during this reporting period.
3. Concur with the basic report as modified by the preceding indorsements. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



GLENN A. DOYLE
Capt., AGC
Asst. AG

TEL: Lynx 782/930

1 Incl.
nc

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31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

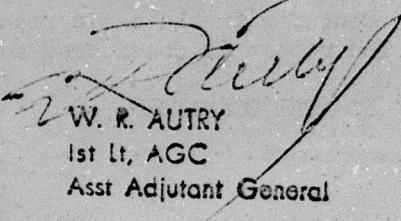
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 12 NOV '66

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned from Headquarters, 61st Medical Battalion for the period ending 31 October 1966.

2. Concur with the basic report as modified by the previous endorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. R. AUTRY
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 July 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 20 JAN 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

gmcnullin

C. L. McMULLIN
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

1 Incl
nc

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4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 8 Jun to 31 Oct 66.

5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)

CO, 61st Medical Battalion

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13. ABSTRACT

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